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|--|----------------|---|-------------------|---|------------------|
|  | MCNINJA<br>A-3 |  | Jazz Hands<br>B-1 |  | NFL Visit<br>C-1 |
|--|----------------|---|-------------------|---|------------------|

## WFO saves crushed man from reefs

*Waterfront Operations rescues snorkeler after being smashed by boat*

**Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Waterfront Operations rescued a man in Kaneohe Bay Jan. 31, after a boat pinned him against a coral reef.

Strong winds pushed a pontoon boat over David Tubberville while he snorkeled next to a reef.

“Before I knew it, the boat came over me, and it just kept coming,” the Washington native said. “Then I felt the propellers hit me.”

After the boat slid by Tubberville, he called to other members of his party who stopped the boat and helped him aboard, where they surveyed the extent of his injuries.

“From the way my legs were bent, I was totally convinced they were broken,” Tubberville said. “Someone called 911 and [WFO] came out.”

Around 2:30 p.m., WFO received a call from the Honolulu Fire Department informing them of the accident. Within minutes, they had a rescue boat searching for Tubberville.

“We headed to where the scene was supposed to be only to find they weren’t there,” said Navy Lt. Marc Tinaz, officer-in-charge, WFO. “We started to look around and saw someone standing in a boat waving flags at us.”

Tinaz, Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyler Johnson, hos-

pital corpsman, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Gabriel Rooney, boatswain’s mate, were in the first vessel to arrive on scene.

“We started assessing his legs, back and vital areas when we got there,” Johnson said. “At the time, it felt like he had broken legs. He also had several cuts on his hands, legs, back and feet. As a precautionary measure, we splinted his legs, wrapped his hand, and made sure he was awake and oriented.”

Approximately 20 minutes after Tinaz and his crew arrived on scene, the second rescue boat, with Petty Officer 2nd Class Shandon Torres, hospital corpsman, arrived to provide further assistance.

“The pain was unbelievable, but I was very comfortable with the way they treated me,” Tubberville said. “They were kind, understanding of my pain, and took all the precautions necessary to ensure my safety. I can’t be appreciative enough about what

they did. You could tell they were obviously trained in their job.”

After properly securing Tubberville, WFO transported him and his family to shore where an ambulance was waiting to take him to Castle Medical Center in Kailua.

After he arrived at the hospital, another “miracle” was unveiled.

“When we got to the hospital, they said I had no broken bones,” Tub-

berville said. “Now it’s just a matter of healing.”

During the ordeal, both parties appreciated the other’s attitude in the situation.

“Most people tend to act irrational when they’re hurt, and for someone to be hurt pretty badly and still be comfortable with the way we treated him speaks volumes of the training we received,” Torres

*See RESCUE, A-6*



Cheryl Tubberville  
David Tubberville listens as Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyler Johnson explains his intention of splinting Tubberville’s legs and then placing him on a backboard. Tubberville said he felt very comfortable with the way Johnson and the other Sailors with Waterfront Operations treated him.

## 2/3 DEPARTS Island Warriors deploy, leave beach sand for desert sand

**Cpl. Chadwick deBree**  
*Combat Correspondent*

The Island Warriors departed here for Iraq this week, after spending the majority of 2007 training to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Marines and Sailors with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, after saying goodbye to their loved ones, said they’re looking forward to their deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

“It feels pretty good to deploy; I’m pretty excited,” said Lance Cpl. Ryan A. Lamarca, rifleman, 2nd Platoon, Echo Company, 2/3. “After all the training we went through, I finally get to use it. It kind of feels like I’m serving a purpose now.”

The Island Warriors feel that with all the training they’ve gone through, they’re more than prepared to take over for 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment in Iraq.

“With all the training we have gone through, I’ve enjoyed it,” said Lamarca, a 23-year-old East-pointe, Mich., native. “I feel prepared because the training got me there. The second half of Twenty-nine Palms was the best because of the big [military operations in urban terrain] town they have



Cpl. Chadwick deBree  
Marines with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, begin to stage their gear before getting on a bus to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, here Friday.

there. It concentrated more on conventional warfare, and they made it real life-like with the role players there interacting with you. I’ve definitely

learned a lot from Exercise Mojave Viper.”

Unit leaders echoed Lamarca’s sense of readiness. After successful completion of the Mojave

Viper Exercise, they feel better prepared and confident in their abilities.

“They’ve had some of the greatest training in the past couple of months,” said Staff Sgt. Higinio G. Cota, guide, 1st Platoon, Echo Company, 2/3. “According to the combat instructors [in Twenty-nine Palms], they were the cream of the crop.”

He added, “The deliberate assault course was where my Marines shined. They were using tactics on their own and were able to make decisions on the spot.”

This is Cota’s second deployment to Iraq, and he’s anxious to get back after having spent the past three years away from the infantry.

“Being on a B-billet for three years, it’s time to get back to the infantry side of the spectrum,” Cota said. “I can’t wait to actually get on the plane and start heading out. I’m pretty anxious to go.”

The Island Warriors will spend approximately seven months in Iraq, where they will be conducting security and stability missions. For many their focus lies in doing a good job and coming home safely.

“Now it’s just a matter of getting over there to do our job,” Lamarca said. “I just want to go out there and do my job and come back home safely.”

## Remembrance

*Black heritage honored at Anderson Hall*

**Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Bluesy jazz floated through the air, mixing with the delicious smell of soul food Tuesday afternoon at Anderson Hall Mess Hall.

The U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band, Jazz Combo brought the music, and the chow hall prepared the special luncheon as a part of the Black History Month

Celebration Ceremony.

“African-American History Month is the successor to Negro History Week, which was initiated on Feb. 12, 1926, by Carter G. Woodson, a prominent historian and founder of the Association for the study of Negro Life and History,” read Col. Duffy W. White, commanding officer, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, in his opening remarks.

“Woodson was concerned that the contributions of Black Americans were overlooked or misrepresented, and

*See HISTORY, A-6*



Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard  
Sergeant Mark Pellon, alto sax, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band Jazz Combo, plays during the Black History Month Celebration at Anderson Hall Tuesday.

## New uniform regs

**Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon**  
*MCAS Yuma*

Now, even work-issued cell phones and similar digital equipment cannot be worn exposed on Marine Corps uniforms due to a change in regulations directed by the commandant Jan. 25.

Updating orders at least 12 years old, Marine Administrative Message 065/08 spells out a small but significant change in an age where many Marines carry cell phones, personal digital assistants and hands-free earpieces for their official duties.

Previously, uniform regulations allowed cell phones and pagers on uniforms, only if they were issued for

work by the government. No personal cell phones were allowed to be shown.

The modification allows room for Marines to wear cell phones out of view, however, such as clipped to their belt in utilities when the blouse covers it, said Mary K. Boyt, with the Marine Corps Uniform Board.

“As long as it can’t be seen, you’re fine,” Boyt said.

Additionally, Marines can still use hands-free headsets on the job within reason, such as sitting at their workstation, and for safety while driving, Boyt said.

Regulations still ban the wear of exposed personal cell phones in Marine Corps uniforms and have not changed since at least 1995.



— NEWS BRIEFS —

Counterintelligence Looking for Marines

The Marine Corps needs intelligent, motivated talented and ambitious first-term corporals and sergeants to lateral move to the Counterintelligence/HUMINT Specialist occupational specialty.

For more information on the field, contact the CI/HUMINT Branch at 477-8447.

Tutors/Mentors Needed

Dedicated and reliable Marines and Sailors can be mentors and tutors at Puohala Elementary School every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call Sgt. Rex Gonzalez at 257-5734 or email rex.gonzalez@usmc.mil.

HR Office Temporary Hours

The Human Resources Office hours have changed due to understaffing. Assistance is now available only by appointment from 8-11 a.m. daily. Walk-ins will be accommodated in case of emergency only.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Shannon Tamaru at 257-1336 or email shannon.tamaru@usmc.mil.

Channel 2 Survey

Combat Camera is conducting a survey to gather information about usage of the Base Commander's Channel, Channel 2. Combat Camera is using the information to improve the service in order to better serve the base community.

For more information, call Gunnery Sgt. Schellenbach at 257-1365, or to take the survey visit <http://ice.disa.mil/svy.cfm?channel2>.

Voting Assistance Workshop

There's a voting assistance workshop Thursday in Building 216 (Room 47/48) from 1 to 4 p.m. for voting assistance officers.

Training is mandatory for voting assistance officers within 90 days of appointment. Voting assistance officers are also required to register at the USMC VAO Registration database at <http://www.manpower.usmc.mil/voting>.

To RSVP or for more information, call Capt. Tracy A. Maese at 257-8813 or email [tracy.a.maese@usmc.mil](mailto:tracy.a.maese@usmc.mil).

Help Evaluate MCCS

To take the survey, visit <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/surveys> between the survey dates. It takes about 15 minutes to complete. For more information, contact Coralie Kramer at 257-7340.

Tax Center

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii Tax Center is open. It is located in Building 279 on the second deck. The hours for the Tax Center are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

For more information call (808) 630-8296.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters

*Hawaii Marine* invites its readers to e-mail its editor at [hmeditor@hawaiimarine.com](mailto:hmeditor@hawaiimarine.com) with their comments and letters.

All submissions will be edited for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number.

*Hawaii Marine* also accepts news briefs containing relevant information pertaining to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

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| Military Police              | 257-7114 |
| Child Protective Service     | 832-5300 |
| Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO    | 257-8852 |
| Business Management Hotline  | 257-3188 |
| Pothole & Streetlight Repair | 257-2380 |
| Base Information             | 449-7110 |
| MCBH Duty Chaplain           | 257-7700 |
| DEERS                        | 257-2077 |

Hawaii MARINE  
www.mcbh.usmc.mil

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| Combat Correspondent   | Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarlitis  |

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# ‘Baby NCOs’ story an insult to junior Marines

Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps  
Carlton W. Kent

Headquarters Marine Corps

*“I am an NCO dedicated to training new Marines and influencing the old. I am forever conscious of each Marine under my charge, and by example will inspire him to the highest standards possible. I will strive to be patient, understanding, just, and firm. I will commend the deserving and encourage the wayward. I will never forget that I am responsible to my Commanding Officer for the morale, discipline, and efficiency of my men. Their performance will reflect an image of me.”*

- Noncommissioned Officers Creed

I can remember the day I got promoted to NCO like it was yesterday. Pinning on that extra stripe didn't just mean extra pay or privileges, it meant I'd achieved a rank that is not taken lightly and is highly respected by all throughout the Marine Corps. That promotion will always be one of the proudest moments in my career.

I have no doubt that getting promoted to NCO is as momentous an occasion for junior Marines nowadays as it was for me back when I got promoted. It was for that reason alone that I felt just as insulted as all of the NCOs around the Corps when I read the “Baby NCOs” story in the Marine Corps Times a couple months ago.

Regardless of the story subject, there will never be a time and a place that the words “baby NCO” could be used to accurately describe junior Marines – never!

Getting promoted to any rank in the Marine Corps is an accomplishment and to insinuate that the Corps' new batch of NCOs is going to be any less deserving than their predecessors is absurd. If anything, Marines of this day and age are just as combat hardened and have as great a responsibility as their predecessors.

Undeniably the Marine Corps Times supported its story with a memo from the Center for Naval Analyses, but even the analysis did-

n't show the reader the complete Marine.

About half of the Marine Corps is made up of Marines in the ranks of private through corporal; nearly 70,000 Marines are ages 21 and below. It's these young, junior Marines – through the mentorship of the Corps' great staff noncommissioned officers – who will be carving out the future of the Marine Corps for all to follow.

As the senior enlisted Marine in the Corps, I have witnessed the great things the Corps' small-unit leaders are doing both on and off the battlefield.

I have seen Marine NCOs serving in combat in billets one, two, even three ranks higher than their rank dictates – and in some cases, officer billets. I've witnessed junior Marines barely old enough to vote and definitely not old enough to drink, make split-second decisions on the battlefield that saved the lives of many of their fellow Marines.

I've read countless award summaries describing heroic acts by Marines wearing the very rank the Marine Corps Times insulted.

I've seen severely wounded Marines more concerned with not letting their fellow Marines down by leaving the battlefield, than they were with receiving life-saving medical treatment. I've visited numerous hospitals where Marine NCOs struggled to rehabilitate



KENT

themselves in order to simply walk 10 feet after surviving an IED blast in Iraq.

And sadly enough, I've said a silent prayer for the more than 300 Marine NCOs who have given their lives during Operations Iraqi/Enduring Freedom.

I'm confident that in five, 10 or 15 years, it will be Medal of Honor recipient Cpl. Jason Dunham or the more than 30 junior Marines who have received either the Navy Cross or Silver Star who will grace the pages of Marine Corps history books.

These are the kinds of Marines that are going to be filling the future ranks of the Marine Corps, regardless of what some reporter wants to imply.

So when I read a story that mentions anything but praise for the thousands of Marine NCOs around the globe, I feel it is my duty to speak out – it is the right thing to do. I will never sit idle and let anyone speak negatively about the Marines serving in the Corps.

The Corps is extremely proud of the Marines serving today and I'm especially proud of the junior Marines who, as I once did, strive to achieve the rank of NCO – one of the best ranks in the Marine Corps. I trust that when promoted, each new NCO will take the NCO Creed to heart and will never let the Corps down.

“If anything, Marines of this day and age are just as combat hardened and have as great a responsibility as their predecessors.”

## So very thankful to be alive Sergeant recounts life-changing experience

Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Army Central Command Operations NCO

Everything seems to bother me – people who stare when they pass you, Marines who don't do what they're suppose to, pretty much all the little injustices that take place in the world around me – to the point where I get upset and have to vent to someone about my feelings.

To me, what I'm upset about seems important but to others these issues are insignificant troubles that should be shrugged off and forgotten.

In my mind it doesn't matter what anyone else thinks; I have a

right to be upset, and I'm going to voice it to whoever will listen.

That was the old me. I had a life changing experience that has made me think differently about the things I stress about on a daily basis, and now I'm just thankful I'm alive.

I had the unique opportunity to be a part of an honor ceremony for soldiers killed in Iraq. I stood in the back of a formation with a mixture of civilians and all branches of the military. I rendered my slow, four second salute as I watched three Marines and three airmen carry each flag-draped coffin off of a plane.

Suddenly, I began to wonder

“What I saw humbled me to a degree that I can never put it into words. All of the petty things I worry or get upset about don't matter. I'm alive.”

about the fallen warriors peacefully resting in the silver coffins. What kind of people were they? How are their families dealing with the news? How would I feel if I was waiting for my loved one to return home? Hundreds of thoughts whirled through my mind as I rendered my slow, steady salute.

After the soldiers were loaded into a refrigerated truck we went to the mortuary. It's important to explain that all service members who pay the ultimate sacrifice in the Central Command area of operations make a stop in Kuwait during their journey home.

I helped bring the coffins into the small room on wooden carts. Then I helped remove and fold some of the American Flags we're used to seeing fly high in the air but now keep the soldiers warm during their journey to their final resting place.

This was the moment that changed me forever. As part of their duties the mortuary team has to open the coffins to ensure everything that is suppose to be in coffin with the warrior is there.

It was hard to believe these men were alive a couple of days ago, proba-

bly counting down the days until they could go home ... and now they were gone. I prayed that none of these men felt anything when they passed.

What I saw humbled me to a degree that I can never put it into words. All of the petty things I worry or get upset about don't matter. I'm alive.

I can call my family and tell them I love them. I can indulge in a candy bar and not feel guilty. I can travel the world and take pictures of everything I see. I can let that person stare at me as they pass.

It's so cliché to say life is short. These men didn't know they were going to pass away. They didn't know the last time they spoke to their mother, father, wife or children that it was going to be the final time they would say “I love you.” Their family didn't know it was the very last time they were going to hear their loved one's voices.

No one knows when it will be his or her time to go. All those “important issues” are meaningless, insignificant problems that should be brushed off and forgotten.

I am determined to live my life differently, enjoying each new day with family and friends and taking a deep breath when the little things start to bother me. After all, I'm alive, breathing, and not guaranteed tomorrow.

### Weekend weather outlook

#### Today



**Day** — Isolated showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80. Northeast wind around 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

**Night** — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 69. East wind around 14 mph. New rainfall between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

**High — 80**

**Low — 69**

#### Saturday



**Day** — Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80. East wind around 14 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

**Night** — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. East wind around 14 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

**High — 80**

**Low — 69**

#### Sunday



**Day** — Sunny, with a high near 80. East wind around 13 mph.

**Night** — Mostly clear, with a low around 69. East wind around 10 mph.

**High — 80**

**Low — 69**





Marines attending Martial Arts Instructor Course 2-08 perform flutter kicks as part of aquatic drills at the Base Pool, Wednesday.

# Pushed beyond their limits

## Marines test mettle during Martial Arts Instructor Course

**Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion**  
*Combat Correspondent*

The morning sun was dim as they ran toward the obstacle course.

There were 11 of them - seven students and four instructors, wearing flak vests and their uniforms. They ran up to the obstacle course and stopped to catch their breath.

"You know the drill," said Sgt. Jerry Hymas, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Martial Arts Instructor Course, Regimental Schools, 3rd Marine Regiment. "Take off your flaks and get ready to run the course three times."

The weary students removed their flaks and prepared to do the seemingly impossible task.

The MAIC pushes Marines past their limits every training day.

"The biggest challenge they have is mental," Hymas said. "They're pushed physically harder than they ever were in their careers, and they

**"The training is brutal, and you have to be crazy to volunteer for it. You have to keep on pushing yourself to want it."**

— Sgt. Rigoberto Vera

must master the techniques to the best of their abilities. We train them mentally and physically to be better warriors."

The course is three weeks (15 training days) long and is designed to, "Breed the warrior spirit and build their confidence, along with allowing them to make extremely difficult decisions under extremely difficult situations, which is priceless on the battlefield," Hymas said.

Through their training, the Marines have classes ranging from the structure and history of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program to fundamentals of the combat mindset.

They have classes each day, but also have plenty of opportunities to knock each other silly during the course.

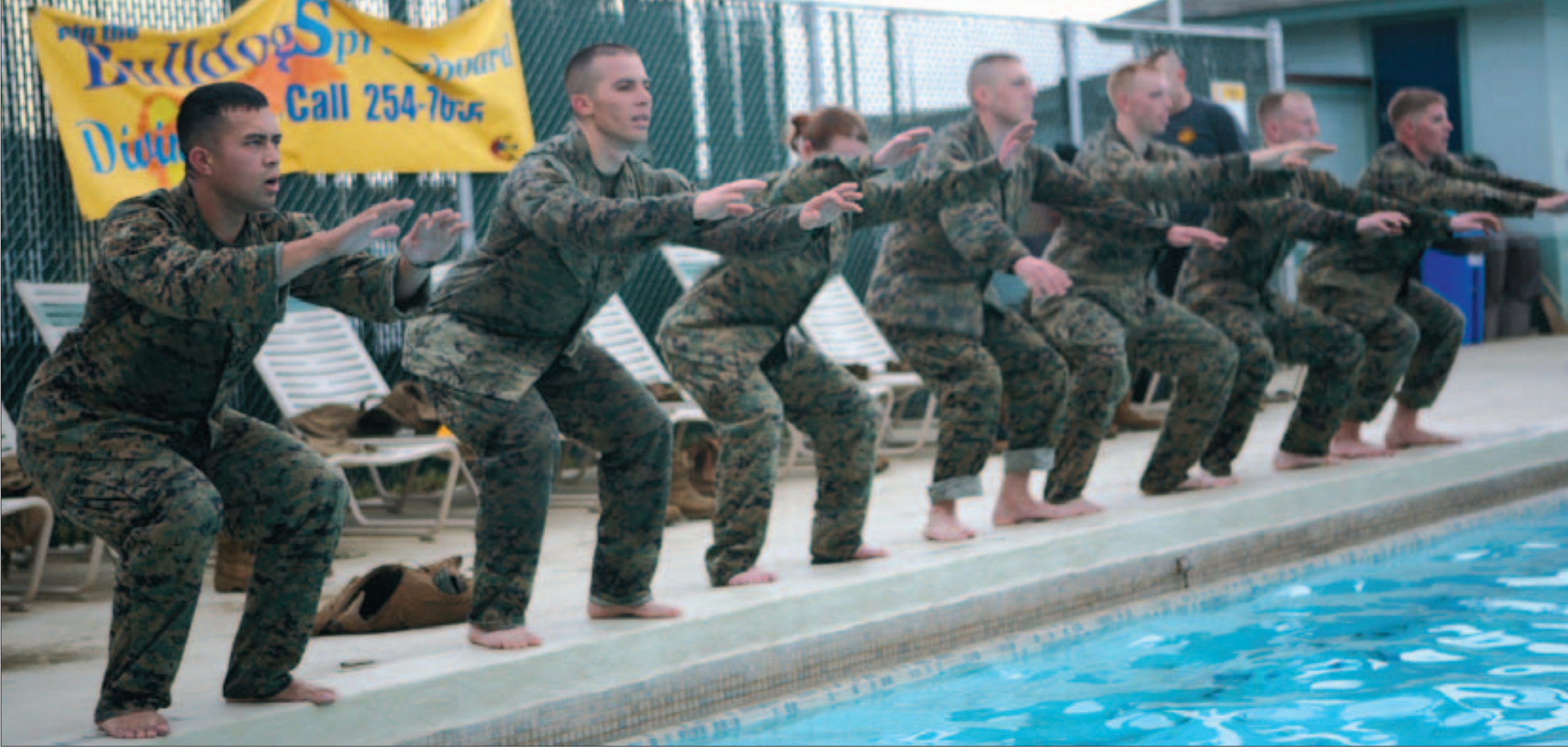
"The Marines will fight each other about 50-60 times in the three week period," Hymas said.

See *NINJA*, A-6



Photos by Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Sergeant Dean Long, assault section leader, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, yells encouragement to other Marines in the Martial Arts Instructor Course at the Base Pool here Wednesday. Marines in the course used different swimming techniques in 25 meter intervals.



Doing 25 squats usually may not be difficult for most Marines, but after running from Regimental Schools to the obstacle course wearing flak vests, followed by completing the O-course three times, then running to the Base Pool, participants in the course fight through the pain before swimming 25 meter intervals during aquatic drills as part of the Martial Arts Instructor Course.



# Personnel system spirals into K-Bay

## New system changes scale for civilian pay, raises

**Christine Cabalo**  
*Photojournalist*

When Spiral 2.2 hits, the civilian employees at U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific will be ready for it.

The MarForPac employees are among the 20 percent of civilian workers here who will switch to the government's new employment plan Feb. 17. The next spiral or phase for the plan promises swifter pay rewards through the new system, the National Security Personnel System.

"The basic law is that the government will pay employees based on performance," said Steve Florman, human resources manager, Marine Corps Base Hawaii. "Instead of having a General Schedule system based on an acceptable or not acceptable rating, there will be a numbered scale supervisors use to rate their employees."

Florman said the new scale is meant to reward employees who score higher for overall work performance with higher pay. Under the new system, supervisors conduct regular performance appraisals of employees. After gaining a recommendation, employees seeking an increase go to a pay pool panel that will make a final approval.

"The next question is how do managers rate 'good performance,'" he said. "Is it based on teamwork, and if it is how do you rate that or other qualities?"

The human resources manager said as part of the new system, civilian workers and managers develop job objectives for the new rating system. Job objectives reflect the needs of a civilian worker's department and what role the position plays in an agency's overall mission.

"Right now we're in the process of developing those job objectives," Florman said. "When they're set up, job objectives may be changed on a needed basis."

Generally, civilian union workers or those covered by the Manual Labor Agreement remain on their pay schedules, including trade laborers. The new system also applies to applicable vacant positions, Forman said. The personnel system divides people into categories based on their type of work, and employees earn any amount within their field's pay range.

Dickie Shimoko, civilian personnel branch head, MarForPac, said it helped to have contractors come in to explain the changes. He said the office is ready to track how well the new system works once it officially starts.

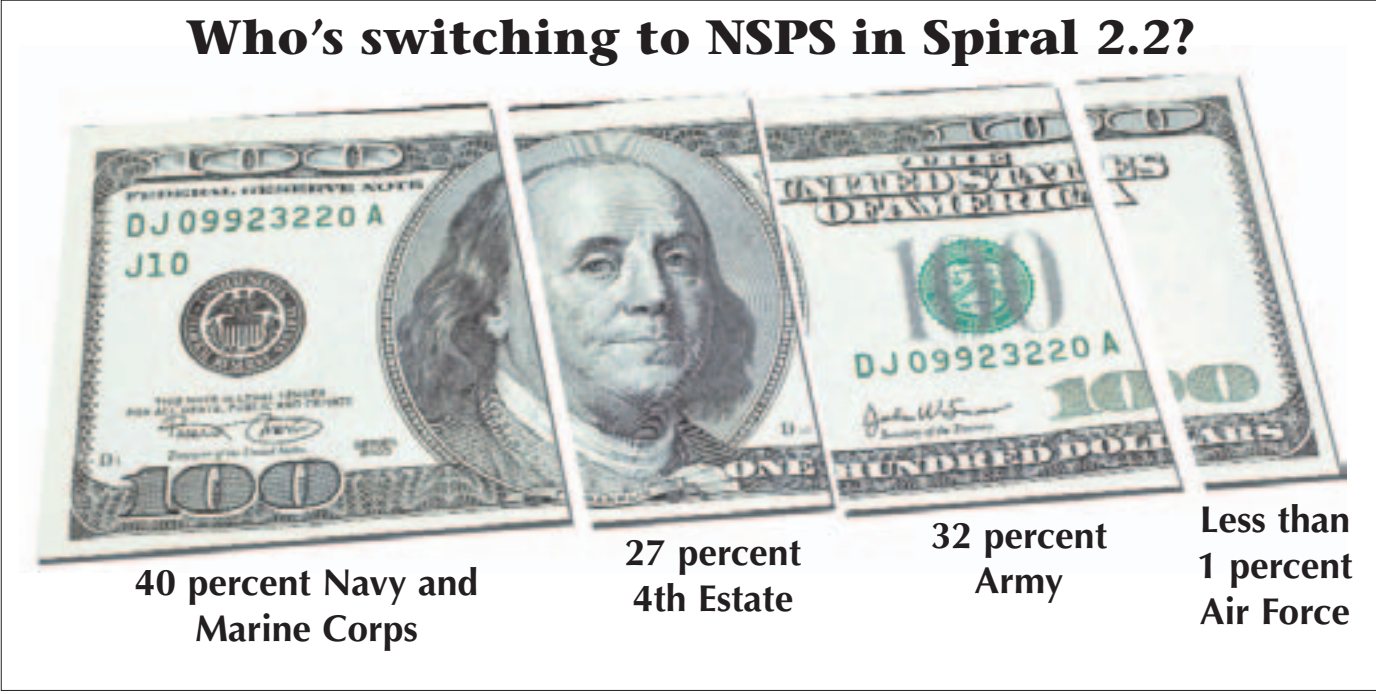
"We're training civilian personnel and letting them know that NSPS is a pay-for-performance-based system," Shimoko said. "Many of the GS positions will be converted into pay bands. The system is based on performance and not longevity."

Florman said performance rewards are one of the key features he likes in the new system. He said he thinks the new employment plan will

hold people accountable for their work, and it will keep the good workers employed at the federal level. The new system reflects the dedication each civilian worker puts into a job, he said. The MarForPac civilian branch head said workers understand how the change influences pay.

"NSPS doesn't use acceptable or unacceptable ratings, but a new numbered scale," Shimoko said. "We're working to make sure everyone going through the conversion is properly trained and aware of the differences."

For more information about NSPS or dates when other commands will implement the system, log onto <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/>.



# SEEING GREEN

## Living-pattern survey may give Hawaii service members pay raise

**Press Release**  
*U.S. Pacific Command*

**FORD ISLAND, Hawaii** — Military personnel in Hawaii have an opportunity to directly affect part of their paychecks this year by taking part in a living-pattern survey, said Maj. Gen. Stephen Tom, chief of staff for U.S. Pacific Command, Jan. 22 here.

The survey, which takes place in February, affects the cost of living allowance that military personnel stationed in Hawaii receive each month.

The final result of the survey could be an increase, decrease, or no change to the COLA paid each month to military personnel, said Tom.

Tom and Stephen Westbrook, director of the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee for Military Personnel Policy, spoke to 50 senior enlisted and officers from all branches during an information session on Ford Island about COLA and the online survey that will take place in February.

COLA is an allowance that compensates members for the difference between the costs of goods and services in the continental United States and the same goods and services in an overseas area, which includes Alaska and Hawaii.

The living-pattern survey collects information about locations where military families shop and dine, both on and off base. The results of this survey are used to form the retail price schedule, which takes place in March.

During the RPS, Hawaii allowances survey teams conduct a market-basket survey for prices of 120 goods and services at on-base commissaries and exchanges and the top three off-base locations identified from the living-pattern survey. The market-basket data is then analyzed for each overseas location.

Other data such as income, number of command-sponsored family members, and the percentage of income military families spend on COLA-related items is also factored into the amount service members receive in COLA.

The living-pattern survey is only conducted every three years and

is the basis for COLA amounts received by service members in the following years. Therefore, maximum participation is critical, Westbrook said.

Currently there are approximately 45,000 military personnel stationed throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

In 2005, approximately 11,000 participants took the survey, Westbrook said.

This year's goal is to have maximum survey participation by all uniformed military, Tom said. This includes all Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Services, and Hawaii National Army and Air Guard personnel who've been assigned to Hawaii for at least three months.

But members in uniform are not the only ones urged to take the survey.

"We really want the spouses who do the shopping [for a military family] to participate in the survey," Westbrook said.

A link to the survey will be active Feb. 1-29 on the U.S. Pacific Command Web site at <http://www.pacom.mil>.

Moto Photo

# ‘Cry Baby, Cry’

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** — Lance Cpl. Kyle Mills leads Marines through side straddle hops in the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., gas chamber Jan. 28. Marines from 8th Engineer Support Battalion and 2nd Supply Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, conducted their annual training session to strengthen Marines' confidence in their issued M40A1 gas masks by demonstrating its effectiveness in a chemically-contaminated environment. Mills is a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist with Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group.

Each week Hawaii Marine's Moto Photo showcases the most motivating Marine Corps photograph from around the globe. Whether it demonstrates progress in the Global War on Terror or is just a stellar photograph of Devil Dogs in action, you can catch it here.

Pfc. Bobbie A. Curtis



# New base recycling partnership saves money, nature

**Christine Cabalo**  
*Photojournalist*

Saving funds and the environment is in the bag with a new partnership between the Base Recycling Center and Hickam Air Force Base.

The two programs start combining their recyclable materials this month in a partnership to earn more money for their bases. The deal also makes it possible for both to expand what they can recycle, including plastic bags and shrink-wrap.

“In recycling, the greater quantity you have of something the more you can get for it,” said Jim Sibert, manager, Base Recycling Center. “Partnering with Hickam allows us to send the paper mill

enough stuff directly so we don’t have to go through a recycling middleman anymore.”

The partnership utilizes an untapped resource: empty shipping containers that international paper company, Weyerhaesuer, uses to supply Oahu’s cardboard. The paper manufacturer’s Seattle branch sends rods of cardboard in five 40-foot containers that made a previously empty return trip back to the Washington paper mill.

“Each container holds about 45,000 pounds,” the manager said. “If we pool from the base, the commissary and Hickam, we can easily fill a container every month.”

Sibert said the partnership opens up new possibilities in what can be recycled, and this month the program to recycle plastic bags and shrink-

wrap begins. The center will take clean, empty bags from blue bins located at the Base Commissary and other locations. Recycling the plastic keeps it away from sea turtles mistaking the bags for food, and the benefits directly extend to the base’s human inhabitants.

“Plastic bags are the worst thing to have in a landfill,” said David Cunha, manager, Base Landfill. “Of all the rubbish that goes in, it’s the easiest to blow away and cause problems. On our trash route if plastic bags fall out of our trucks they could blow onto the flight line, and flight operations may need to shut down to get the debris cleared away.”

Cunha said the base landfill could be filled to capacity by 2015, and recycling more products helps extend the resource’s lifespan. Once the landfill is at capacity, Base Operations must pay to dispose its trash though the local government. The manager said the bags take a small space in a landfill, however the plastic can cause a bigger financial problem.

“If you’ve ever been to the state’s landfill at Waimanalo Gulch you can see plastic bags blowing all over the side of the mountain,” Cunha said. “They hire eight people each day to collect the floating bags. The state health department charges a \$25,000 fine for any lose trash found blowing out of a landfill.”

Mark Petersen, environmental engineer and program manager, Hickam Recycling Center, said the economy is good for earning money through



Christine Cabalo

**Lance Cpl. Alex Hatler, firecontrol man, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, fills a recycling bin with plastic bags. The Base Recycling Center launches its new partnership with Hickam Air Force Base this week to earn money for base operations and save the environment.**

### Fantastic Plastic

This week the Base Recycling Center begins recycling plastic bags and shrink-wrap. All bags should be clean and empty before going into its blue recycling bin. According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Web site about plastic bags:

- Recycling one ton of plastic bags saves 11 barrels of oil
- One plastic bag takes 1,000 years to degrade, however most landfills aren’t suitable for degradation due to new methane and water safety regulations
- In 2005 recyclers turned in a total of 650 million pounds of plastic bags and film. The amount is enough raw materials to make 1.2 million composite lumber decks.

For more information about plastic recycling, log on to <http://www.plasticbagrecycling.org/>. To find consumer products made of recycled plastic, visit the learning center at [http://www.americanchemistry.com/s\\_plastics/index.asp](http://www.americanchemistry.com/s_plastics/index.asp).

## Taxpayers urged, be wary of refund Anticipation Loans

**Press Release**  
*MCBH Tax Center*

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii Tax Center opened Jan. 22, and remains open until April 18.

The center offers free income tax services to all active duty members, family members and military retirees.

Trained tax preparers are ready to electronically prepare and file your federal and some state tax returns free of charge.

The Tax Center also offers legal advice on tax issues.

On the other hand, if you elect to have a commercial tax preparer file your taxes, expect to pay in excess of \$59 for a simple return and in excess of

\$100 for more complicated returns.

Additionally, if you go to a commercial tax preparer, be cautious if they attempt to sell a "rapid refund" option, or "refund anticipation loan."

A RAL is advertised as a way to get your money now rather than waiting. If this sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

The commercial tax preparer essentially loans you the refund money you are owed by the government, and then has the government send them the actual refund.

For commercial tax preparers, this is a great deal because the loan involves no risk on their part.

Even if the actual refund amount is less than the expected amount, you

**TAX TIME**

still have to pay the difference to the commercial tax preparer.

Even more, the commercial tax preparer typically charges fees equivalent to an annual percentage rate of more than 100 percent.

Before signing up for a RAL, make sure you ask yourself the following questions:

**Is the high cost of a RAL worth the quicker receipt of funds?**

At the Tax Center, you can get your refund fast and without any tax preparation fees. RALs have been popular among taxpayers who don't want to wait. However, even though the IRS states the refund will be executed within two weeks, the majority of electronic filers through the Tax Center receive their refund as a direct deposit within just a few days.

**Why should I pay someone to**

**loan me my own money at an interest rate of 100 percent or more?**

Finally, some commercial tax preparers offer RALs by providing the taxpayer their refund on a debit card. The card is free, but you should consider the potential charges you may accrue by using the card, such as fees for withdrawing money, making a balance inquiry from an ATM, or replacement fees for lost or stolen cards.

Bottom line: visit the Tax Center to have your taxes prepared and electronically filed free of charge by trained tax preparers. Allow a few days for the IRS to deposit your refund directly into your account.

# TAX

### What to bring to the Tax Center:

- \* All W-2s (including spouse's)
- \* Bank account number and routing number - numbers are located on the bottom left corner of your check
- \* Power of attorney (for the spouse of the taxpayer, when the taxpayer is not present)
- \* Social Security cards for family members
- \* Any other relevant tax information (1099s, etc.)

### Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns about tax preparation please use the following contact information:

### Phone Numbers:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Front Desk                                     | 630-8296  |
| Director, Staff Sgt. Williams                  | 216-3114  |
| SNCOIC, Staff Sgt. Pater                       | 620-1568  |
| Port SqdLdr, Petty Officer 1st Class Miller    | 590-6901  |
| Starboard SqdLdr, Petty Officer 2nd Class Bond | 216-5133  |
| Quality Review NCO, Cpl. Abundiz               | 620-1624  |
| IRS Customer Service                           | (800) 829-1040                                      |
| IRS web page                                   | <a href="http://www.irs.gov">http://www.irs.gov</a> |

### Hours of Operation

Walk-in hours:  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

# INFO

## K-Bay’s Garden opens, hosts celebration, lion dance

**Press Release**  
*Marine Corps Community Services*

K-Bay’s Garden, located in Building 1255, reopened with new décor and new menu items Jan. 31.

Management and hours remain the same: Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To commemorate the reopening, there’s a special celebration today at 11:30 a.m., including an authentic Chinese lion dance to offer good luck to the establishment.

All patrons will receive a free beverage for lunch.

K-Bay’s Garden is a contracted establishment associated with Marine Corps Community Services.

Proceeds from this location directly benefit the quality of life for the Marines, Sailors and their family members stationed in Hawaii.

No USMC or Federal Government endorsement implied.



Christine Cabalo

**The newly renovated K-Bay’s Garden is hosting a celebration today.**



*HISTORY, from A-1*

he began lobbying for Negro Week as early as 1915,” he added.

Woodson chose February because both Abraham Lincon and Frederick Douglas have birthdays in the same week; two men whom he believed greatly impacted the lives of the Black Americans, White read.

After a prayer from Cmdr. Kalas K. McAlexander, chaplain, 3rd Marines, Cpl. Herdy Guirand, fiscal clerk, 3rd Marines, read the presidential proclamation of African-American History Month of 2008.

“ . . . this year's theme, ‘Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism,’ honors an educator who taught his fellow citizens about the traditions and contributions of African Americans,” Guirand read. “His dedication to educating Americans about cultural diversity initiated this celebration of African-American history. Our Nation is now stronger and more hopeful because generations of leaders like him have worked to help America live up to its promise of equality and the great truth that all of God's children are created equal.”

Gunnery Sgt. Nicholas Fonseca, career rention specialist, 3rd Marines, then took the podium to read “African-American History Month Observance,” Maradmin 049/08, to the crowd.

“ . . . [Woodson] once said, ‘We should emphasize not Negro history, but the Negro in history,’” Fonseca read. “What we need is

not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world, void of national bias, race, hate and religious prejudice.’ As Marines we are proud of our rich heritage and the contributions of Marines of all races and ethnicities. . . .”

He said he enjoyed being apart of the program, as it emphasized the mulit-culturalism in our great nation. It has often been referred to as a melting pot with the vast number of cultures, Fonseca said.

The MarForPac Band Jazz Combo then played an ensemble of music, including the songs “Balck Orpheus,” by Luiz Bonfa, and “Four,” by Miles Davis.

“It’s nice that people can rely on us to help make a ceremony special,” said Sgt. Ryan Morris, drummer and unit leader, MarForPac Jazz Combo.

Following the ensemble, the ceremony’s guest speaker Thomas J. Diggs, retired U.S. Army captain, spoke of our nation’s black heroes from current headlines and history.

“Consider how different our nation would be if it weren’t for the great contributions from not only African Americans but all minorities,” Diggs said. “ . . . to truly celebrate African American month, lets remember all those today who aren’t in the history books yet.”

Each speaker at Tuesday’s ceremony delivered a different part to an important message: African American’s have shaped America’s pathway, leading it to the light of equality and justice.



Lance Cpl. Alesha R. Guard

Sergeant Maj. Steven D. Morefield, sergeant major, 3rd Marine Regiment, presents Thomas J. Diggs, retired U.S. Army captain, with a gift of appreciation from Marine Corps Base Hawaii for speaking at the African-American History Month celebration ceremony at Anderson Hall Tuesday.

*RESCUE, from A-1*

said. “He was hit by a propeller and crushed by a boat. Fortunately, he only had some cuts and bruises. With coral injuries, there’ll be lots of tissue damage, but he’s on the road to healing.”

Tuberville and his family went to WFO Friday to thank Tinaz and his crew for their efforts.

“If a guy gets run over by a boat out here, this is who I’d tell them to call,” Tuberville said. “They were very courteous to me. They took charge, and I felt very secure.”

For WFO, this is the first search and rescue mission of the new year, but they’re no strangers to these missions.

Last year they had 66 SAR missions ranging from small trauma to basic rescue. Of those 66 missions, 18 were life saving specific, meaning lives were saved through their efforts.

“This is what we do and why we’re here,” Torres said. “We have a job to do. All of WFO works hard to keep people safe inside the bay.”

As for Tuberville, he traveled back to Washington earlier this week but said his injuries wouldn’t slow him down, and in spite of those injuries, there’s a reason he still feels safe.

“This wouldn’t stop me from going out in the water again,” Tuberville said. “I know they’re out there doing their jobs for us.”



Cheryl Tuberville

David Tuberville poses with his children and Waterfront Operations at the WFO facility Friday. Tuberville came to WFO to say thank you to the Sailors there for the way they treated him during his accident in the bay.

# Command and Conquer



Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Marines with 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment conducted training exercises at Landing Zone 216 here Wednesday in anticipation of Exercise Lava Viper at the Pohakuloa Training Area this year. Headquarters Battery, along with liasons from Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Company tested their fire control systems and voice and digital communication to get used to working as a battalion.



Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Corporal Bradley A. Nolan, airframe mechanic, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, Marine Aircraft Group 24, hurdles an obstacle at the obstacle course here during Martial Arts Instructor Course.

*NINJA, from A-3*

The training is difficult for the Marines, but they say they can handle it.

“It’s very intense and motivating,” said Cpl. Bradley A. Nolan, airframe mechanic, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, Marine Aircraft Group 24.

He added, “It pushes you through adversity and shows you how strong you are and how strong you can become.”

The students are in their second week of training, but they all feel it’s helping them achieve their goals.

“I was tired of staying a grey belt and wanted to get to the next level,” said Sgt. Rigoberto Vera, Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Regiment.

He added, “The training is brutal, and you have to be crazy to volunteer for it.”

He added, “You have to keep on pushing yourself to want it.”

Though the exercises seem difficult when the Marines tackle them, they feel they’d accomplished something.

“Before you start an obstacle it looks impossible,” Nolan said. “After you complete it, you look back at it, and it doesn’t seem that difficult any more. When you end the day you feel good about yourself, like you’ve accomplished something.”

Accomplishing the challenges of the course takes preparation of more than just the body. As Nolan puts it, “You just have to prepare your mind and body for the task.”

Several Marines enrolled for the course, but only seven made it past the first day due to eligibility requirements.

“We get Marines who don’t meet all the requirements, so they are dropped within the first day,” Hymas said.

He added, “I would like to suggest the parent commands ensure their Marines meet the prerequisites so these incidences won’t happen.”

Marines must be corporal or above in any military occupational specialty, must have a first class physical fitness test, must volunteer and be recommended by their parent command, in full-duty status and free of any physical limitations.

They must also be a grey belt or higher, have at least a year left on their current contract and must complete the appropriate level professional military education.



# Mess hall civilians part of dining facility family

**Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantariotis**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Civilian contracting in mess halls is a Marine Corps-wide change that has left Marine Corps Base Hawaii relatively unscathed.

Anderson Hall still operates in a traditional manner despite the contracting, and efficiently infuses civilian contractors throughout the facility to produce a productive, family environment.

Because of the team structure Anderson Hall constructed, many of the civilians have become part of the family - some employed since the days of Pless Hall.

“A lot of the civilians have been here since Desert Storm,” said Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Yantosca, mess hall manager, Headquarters Battalion. “Most of them know [the Marines] personally. The Marine/civilian contract relationship [here] is unlike any other in the Marine Corps.”

He added, “Compared to the East and West Coast, the civilians run the show and the Marines are nonexistent. But here, it’s a team effort, and the civilians put in as much hard work as the Marines.”

Yantosca credits the civilians’ dedication for Anderson Hall’s success in winning the Major General W.P.T. Hill Memorial Awards Program for best mess hall in the Marine Corps back-to-back.



Susan Lacour, food service attendant, Anderson Hall, has served service members at Anderson Hall for roughly nine years. Like many of her peers, over time she has become close with many of the Marines, considering them her own.

“There’s a reason for our award winning facility,” Yantosca explained. “It’s the hard work and team effort we have here. We couldn’t have don’t it without them.”

Many of the workers have developed personal bonds not only with their Marine counterparts, but the patrons as well.

“Most of the Marines know the workers by name; we see them as our kids,” said Nilyris Witsell, food service attendant, Anderson Hall.

She added, “It becomes very per-

sonal. Some of us send care packages and write them cards while they’re deployed.”

Witsell recalls a certain Marine who had a profound impact on her relationship with Marines.

“I remember this quiet Marine that I

always said hello to,” Witsell said. “One day he asked me why I was so nice, and I was shocked. I just told him that’s what we do; we provide a professional, kind and caring place to eat. One day I remember him leaving with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, to Iraq and a little after I heard about him on the news. He had died in Iraq protecting his fellow Marines from a grenade.”

She added, “I felt very sad, because we care a lot, and that Marine is always in the back of my mind, reminding me to be nice to everyone, especially the quiet ones.”

The quiet Marine was 25-year-old Sgt. Rafael Peralta, who died in Iraq during Operation Phantom Fury in November 2004. Peralta is one of the many Marines the civilians have formed bonds with. Many of them often scan the news, hoping not to see any Marines injured or killed, especially ones they’ve become close with.

“We focus on the care and service of the Marines,” said Kevin Witsell, a former Marine who used to pull mess duty at Pless Hall in the mid-80s, currently a food service specialist at Anderson Hall. “We enjoy seeing them smile and appreciate what we do for them.”

To the civilians at Anderson Hall, it’s not just a job, but a family they dedicate countless hours serving, laughing and growing with...because to them, they’re their children.

# Terror tactics backfire on al Qaeda in Iraq

## Kidnapping, extortion, thuggish tactics fail al Qaeda, colonel says

**Gerry J. Gilmore**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Al Qaeda’s acts of murder, extortion and kidnapping to raise money and intimidate Iraqi citizens is backfiring on the terrorist group, a senior military officer posted in Iraq said today.

A recent video shows Iraqi commandos rescuing an 11-year-old Iraqi boy during a Jan. 29 operation northeast of Baghdad, said Air Force Col. Donald J. Bacon, chief of special operations and intelligence information in Multi-National Force – Iraq’s Strategic Communications Division.

Three days earlier, the youth had been taken for ransom by al Qaeda agents, Bacon said. The kidnapers demanded \$100,000, then \$80,000, from the boy’s parents to secure his release. The kidnapers had threatened to behead the youth if they weren’t paid. The boy’s father, a mechanic, couldn’t afford to pay the kidnapers.

Intelligence information led Iraqi forces to the kidnapers’ hideout, where the boy was safely rescued, Bacon said. The al Qaeda kidnapping cell is linked to 26 previous abductions, he added.

Al Qaeda in Iraq conducts kidnappings “as one of their sources of income in Iraq,” Bacon explained. “They also use extortion,” he added, such as when shopkeepers or other citizens are threatened by terrorists demanding “protection” money. However, “these tactics have clearly backfired,” Bacon pointed out, noting citizens are “appalled” by the terrorists’ thuggish acts.

Citizens’ groups have emerged to help with security across Iraq “because of the rejection of al Qaeda and

the tactics that have been used,” Bacon said.

Despicable terrorist-performed acts of kidnappings, extortion and murder do not “play well” among the Iraqi populace, Bacon said.

A terrorist-made video captured during a Dec. 4 anti-insurgent operation conducted between Baqouba and Baghdad that depicts 11 to 12-year-old Iraqi boys being trained to commit terrorist acts is another example of how low al Qaeda will go, Bacon said. And the Feb. 1 double-suicide bombing conducted in Baghdad by two young women that killed more than 70 people has outraged Iraqi citizens, he added.

Investigations of the bombings have revealed that the two women were actually girls around age 17, he noted, both of whom seem to have suffered from Down syndrome.

Kidnapping 11-year-old children for ransom and threatening to behead them, training pre-teenage children how to commit terrorist acts, and using mentally disabled young women as suicide bombers reflect al Qaeda’s depraved ideology, Bacon said.

“I think the acts of al Qaeda have undermined their support” among Iraqis, Bacon said. For example, violence across Iraq has decreased 60 percent over the past year, he noted.

While loathsome al Qaeda in Iraq acts may not presage imminent collapse of the group, they do represent desperate tactics that are being adopted because of continuing pressure applied by U.S. and Iraqi security forces and the contributions of concerned local citizens groups, the colonel said.

“We do think these acts are desperate,” Bacon said. With the improved security situation in Baghdad, “it is harder for al Qaeda to get in car bombs,” he noted.



An Iraqi Army soldier with the 36th Commando Battalion, Iraqi Special Operations Forces Brigade, stands by with a 7.62mm PKM light machine gun preparing to conduct a joint Iraqi and Coalition Forces combat operation at Forward Operating Base Duke, Najaf province, Iraq. Originally named the 36th Iraqi Civil Defense Corps and under the control of the 1st Armored Division, the battalion is composed of experienced soldiers who’ve conducted numerous raids, have found dozens of weapons caches and have worked together since Dec. 2003.



# AROUND THE CORPS



Marines de-link 7.62mm ammo before firing it at a sniper range Jan. 26 in Kuwait. The Marines shot with linked ammo instead of their usual ammo and recorded the differences.

## Marine scout snipers scope out new tactics

**Cpl. Scott M. Biscuiti**  
*11th MEU*

**UDAIRI RANGE COMPLEX, Kuwait** — Thanks to new sniping tactics picked up by Marine scout snipers here, insurgents caught in their scopes are guaranteed to have a bad day.

The Scout Sniper Platoon and reconnaissance Marines with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, attended a 10-day training package Jan. 20-30 headed by National Sniper Champion Todd Hodnett, who taught the Marines how to improve their lethality with new shooting formulas, shooting positions and techniques.

“Training with Todd Hodnett has taken our capabilities to a level that I didn’t think was possible as a scout sniper,” said Cpl. Ryan Lindner, a scout sniper with Scout Sniper Platoon. “Todd has really revolutionary tactics about shooting [around, over and within buildings].”

During the training, snipers were able to effectively engage targets behind buildings and many Marines hit targets at distances that they never attempted before.

One particular technique they learned was shooting loopholes. This technique makes the shooter virtually invisible from enemy detection by allowing him to shoot through a two-inch hole in a wall while 20 to 30-feet away from the hole.

“I’ve done stuff out here that I’ve never even heard of before,” said Cpl. Scott Koppenhafer, a scout sniper with Scout Sniper Platoon. “It directly correlates to everything we would do in combat.”

First Lt. Frank Edwards, Scout Sniper Platoon commander, said the Marines are using personal digital assistants to expand their capabilities.

“PDAs are relatively new to the Marine Corps and very new to our platoon,” said the Olney, Md., native. “It’s a quicker, more efficient way for our guys to do math calculations such as atmospheric pressure, wind speed and target range so they can make their adjustments faster.”

Using the handheld devices was a new experience for many of the Marines.

“This is the first time I’ve worked with them,” said Koppenhafer, a Mancos, Colo., native. “It used to take a week on the range going through boxes and boxes of ammo to build up data for your rifles. The PDA cancels that out. What used to take a week, now takes an hour.”

In addition to learning advanced formulas and using modern technology to gain the upper hand, the Marines prepared themselves for the unexpected by shooting with different ammo and storing the results in their PDAs.

“If a sniper is in a firefight and has to switch to different ammo, he already has the data in his PDA,” Edwards said.

As time changes, so too do the tactics and technological

advances available to snipers. Learning what they are and how to employ them will keep Marine scout snipers at the top of the food chain, Lindner said.

“Taking what Todd has taught us enlarges everything we can do,” Lindner said. “We can engage targets a lot faster, farther and with a lot more accuracy. It will make us that much more of a combat multiplier out on the battlefield.”



The Scout Sniper Platoon and reconnaissance Marines with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, engage targets Jan. 26 in Kuwait.